

14 October 2005

Honorable Mayor and Council Members
City of Sunnyvale

Re: 1029 Ranere Court, Sunnyvale

On 5 October 2005, the Heritage Preservation Commission considered our application to remove the subject property from the Heritage Resource Inventory. Planning staff prepared a report and made recommendations based on various resources. The primary resource appears to be the "HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL EVALUATION 1029 Ranere Ct." (HAE) prepared by ARCHIVES & ARCHITECTURE. The HAE report is very comprehensive and provides an excellent insight into the growth of the City of Sunnyvale, as it relates to the subject property.

In section 4.5 Evaluation of the HAE the following statements are made:

The house at 1029 Ranere Ct. has been previously identified as having historical significance for its association with patterns of development in rural Sunnyvale during its horticultural period which ranged from the 1870s to early 1960s....

Although the City of Sunnyvale apparently listed the property at 1029 Ranere Ct. on its inventory due to its agricultural associations, the house would not appear to qualify for the National Register under Criterion A, or the California Register under Criterion (1).....The house alone does not adequately represent the pattern of development that the City of Sunnyvale considers to be of historical importance.

The Caviglias are not known for specific innovations or contributions to their area of business, or for activities within the local community for which they would be remembered in a significant way. The property would therefore not qualify for the National Register under Criterion B or the California Register under Criterion (2) for it (sic) association with historic personages.

While the house has not been associated with a designer of known reputation, the True Brothers constructed a unique residence that combines both distinctive architectural features while at the same time adapting a style to modern materials such as steel windows..... The house would appear to qualify for both the National Register under Criterion C and the California Register under Criterion (3) based distinctive architectural design.....

These excerpts from the HAE provide the primary basis for our request to have the property removed from the Resources Inventory. No justifications are found to support either of the

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first two criteria for association with the National Register or the California register. National Register Criterion C and California Register Criterion (3) are supported by the statement "*distinctive architectural design, a distinguished example...*" The house, in fact, copies a number of features from a house built a year earlier in the City of Mountain View. These are the three arched windows, arched front door, tile roof, and stucco exterior utilized almost identically between the two houses. Furthermore, one can find these elements of design in hundreds of homes in Sunnyvale which are not considered historic. The house at 1029 Ranere Court could not in a good conscience be considered unique or distinctive architectural design.

Three findings out of a possible thirteen of the historic preservation ordinance were also used in the NAE:

It appears that the house meets the following criteria:

- (a) *It exemplifies or reflects special elements of the city's cultural, social, economic, political, aesthetic engineering, architectural, or natural history;*
- (c) *It embodies distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction, or is a valuable example of the use of indigenous materials or craftsmanship;*
- (i) *It reflect significant geographical patterns, including those associated with different eras of settlement and growth*

Criteria (a) is by itself a very all inclusive statement. One can argue that a major portion of the citizens of Sunnyvale and their cultural, social, economic, and political contributions to life of the city are special. Are they historical significant to warrant their houses being retained forever? The Caviglia family made a contribution to the history of the City of Sunnyvale, but in our opinion it was not the building of the subject house.

Criteria (c) is the architectural criteria. The main house at 1029 Ranere Court does not have characteristics, both singularly or combined, that warrant being called distinctive. The features previously mentioned are common in many homes throughout Sunnyvale. Furthermore, if these characteristics are to be called distinctive, why have other houses with the same features been removed or for that matter not added to the Resource Inventory? Arched windows, etc. should not be a criteria to retain a structure forever. Architectural features can be duplicated and improved, both aesthetically and functionally.

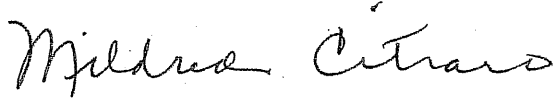
Criteria (i) revolves around settlement and growth for the community. From its early agricultural days to the present time, the City of Sunnyvale has seen considerable growth. The Caviglia land holdings and their subdivision are similar to many other growth patterns that have occurred in the City of Sunnyvale. These divisions of land for the use of new homes, commercial buildings, etc. continue to this day.

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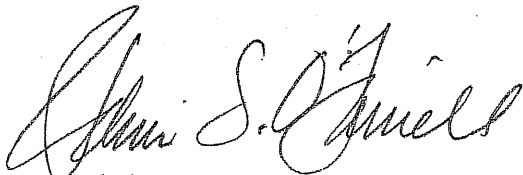
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We respectfully request that the property at 1029 Ranere Court, Sunnyvale be removed from the Heritage Resource Inventory.

Sincerely,



Mildred Citraro



Edwin O'Farriell